

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

<b>In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>the Educator Certificate of</b>	)	<b>ORDER OF</b>
	)	<b>SUSPENSION</b>
<b>Jon Joseph Charles,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Certificate 208859</b>	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this certificate suspension or revocation matter on January 11, 2005. On April 19, 2004, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Jon Joseph Charles a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 208859 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Charles received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt. Mr. Charles subsequently requested a hearing that was held by John J. Fantry, Esquire, a hearing officer appointed by the State Board, on December 8, 2004. On January 11, 2005, Mr. Fantry presented his report to the State Board. Mr. Fantry recommended a six-month suspension from December 8, 2004, through June 8, 2005. After receiving the report the State Board voted to accept the recommendation of the hearing officer and suspended Mr. Charles certificate for the six-month period.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

During the 2000-2001 school year Mr. Charles held a teaching certificate in the State of Kentucky and taught at Henry Clay High School, Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS). In the Spring of 2001, Mr. Charles entertained two under-aged female students at his home and served them alcohol. When confronted about the matter by FCPS, Mr. Charles admitted to serving the alcohol and resigned his employment on August 9, 2001, under threat of termination. The FCPS reported Mr. Charles' conduct and resignation to the Kentucky Professional Standards Board (PSB) on August 15, 2001. On March 12, 2002, the PSB suspended Mr. Charles' Kentucky certificate, in part retroactively, from August 9, 2001, through May 30, 2003.

On November 27, 2001, Mr. Charles applied for employment in South Carolina with Dorchester County School District Two (District). The District offered Mr. Charles employment as a high school teacher, and he began his employment on August 5, 2002. Mr. Charles did not give an accurate or honest response on his South Carolina employment application as to whether he had ever resigned in lieu of being terminated from employment. Mr. Charles' Kentucky certificate was under suspension for providing alcohol to minors when he began employment in South Carolina.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and dishonesty. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). After considering the findings of the hearing officer, the State Board concludes that there is substantial evidence to support the suspension of the educator certificate of Jon Joseph Charles for six months, from December 8, 2004, through June 8, 2005, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct and dishonesty.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 11, 2005